



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Public Notice

Public Notice Number: 200175007

Date: February 6, 2001

Comments Due: February 26, 2001

In reply, please refer to the Public Notice Number

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

SUBJECT: Application for a Department of the Army permit under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and for water quality certification under Section 401 of the CWA to discharge dredged and fill material in the Blue River, as shown in the attached drawings.

APPLICANT: Town of Breckenridge
Post Office Box 168
Breckenridge, CO 80424-

LOCATION: Blue River, Breckenridge, Summit County, Colorado, Section 30, Township 6 South, Range 77 West.

PURPOSE: To improve whitewater boating characteristics, stabilize and prevent erosion of streambanks, and improve instream and streamside habitat.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This permit application identifies two phases of work. The applicant has funds to build only phase I at this time but wants a standard permit to build both phases. [Note: A standard permit normally has a 3-year requirement to complete construction. An extension of this limit must be approved by the Corps of Engineers.]

The applicant proposes to build 9 V-dams, using 3- to 5-foot diameter boulders, that will extend across the entire channel and will be anchored to each streambank. The maximum volume of material for each V-dam will be 180 cubic yards (cy). A portion (about 400 cy) of the rock for the new structures will come from two existing rock structures within the river.

A 4-foot deep pool will be excavated below each V-dam, with pool depth gradually decreasing in a downstream direction to form the pool tailout. The maximum volume of excavated material per pool will be 190 cy. All of the excavated material from the pool formations will be reused in the riverbed at the downstream portion of each pool to create the tailout area. An excess of excavated material, requiring disposal, is not anticipated.

Riffle roughness boulders, 4- to 6-foot in diameter, will be placed at various locations below plunge pools to enhance the quality of the riffle. Twenty-nine boulders will be placed at each location. Each boulder will be a maximum of 10 cy.

Two portions of the north streambank will be stabilized. A row of two, 3-foot diameter, boulders will be placed at the toe of the streambank below the ordinary high water mark. This boulder toe amounts to 2/3 of a cubic yard placed per lineal foot of 330 feet of bank for a total of 220 cy. Existing vegetation will be preserved and more vegetation will be introduced.

Double current deflectors will be constructed at six locations. These are constructed by placing two angled current deflectors, opposite to each other. Boulders will be anchored into the bank and the bed of the river to withstand flood flows. These structures will require about 180 cy per structure.

According to the applicant, this river segment could potentially experience the loss of surface water due to the excavation for the placement of structures. Therefore, the applicant also proposes to use a maximum of 10 cy of concrete grout per structure at the base of structures to seal the bed. Such grout would not be visible from the surface and grouting operations would occur during de-watered conditions (see below).

The applicant will install temporary cofferdams composed of water-filled, synthetic, bladder-like structures to separate the entire construction area from the flow of the Blue River. These temporary structures will not be moved from one area of construction to another. The structures will be set up prior to construction and will not be removed until phase I construction is complete. Pumps will be used to assist diversion of flows around the construction area. The applicant expects that turbidity levels will be minimal. Any turbid groundwater infiltration or surface water run-off will be pumped into a confined sedimentation basin located within the de-watered segment of the river. The applicant states that the establishment of the confined sedimentation basins will not require a discharge of dredged or fill material. These basins will be located downstream from the construction of each structure and will be incorporated into the next downstream structure. Silt fencing will be located along the river edge at all areas of bank disturbance.

ALTERNATIVES: The no action or permit denial alternative is available. The applicant did not provide any alternatives analysis with the permit application.

AREA DESCRIPTION: The applicant characterizes existing conditions in this section of the Blue River as moderately disturbed. The historic streambed and riparian zone were completely eliminated by dredgeboat mining operations during the 19th and 20th centuries. A few years ago, the applicant re-built the current channel. The take-out pond and beach area shown in the attached plans are existing. The applicant states that the pool-to-riffle ratio is low, and the only pool in the reach is located immediately upstream of the Valley Brook bridge. This reach of the river does not have a man-made impermeable lining like other downstream reaches of river that were modified about a decade ago as part of a mitigation requirement for another permit action with the town. The lining in the other reaches helps to maintain surface flows.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The applicant has requested water quality certification from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Division in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Written comments on water quality

certification should be submitted to Mr. Phil Hegeman, Planning and Standards Section, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Division, 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, Colorado, 80222-1530, on or before **February 26, 2001**.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Division also reviews each project with respect to the anti-degradation provision in state regulations. For further information regarding anti-degradation provision, please contact Mr. Hegeman at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Division, telephone (303) 692-3575.

The latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and its monthly supplements have been reviewed and there are not any places either listed or recommended as eligible which would be affected. Presently unknown cultural resources may be located in the permit area.

This activity would not affect any threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat. The District Engineer has made this determination based on information provided by the applicant and on the Corps' preliminary investigation.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments on or before **February 26, 2001**. Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge does not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's Section 404(b) (1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria, a permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To

make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Written comments on this permit application should be submitted to the District Engineer at the address listed above. Please furnish a copy of your written comments to the attention of Mr. Grady L. McNure, Chief, Northwestern Colorado Regulatory Office, U.S. Army Engineer District, Sacramento, 402 Rood Avenue, Room 142, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501-2563. For further information, please contact Mr. McNure, at (970) 243-1199, extension 11, or email gmcnure@spk.usace.army.mil.

Michael J. Walsh
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Enclosures: Drawings